

Docket No.: 2091-0288P
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Yukita GOTOHDA et al.

Application No.: 10/649,824

Confirmation No.: 9008

Filed: August 28, 2003

Art Unit: 2622

For: METHOD, DEVICE, AND PROGRAM FOR
CONTROLLING IMAGING DEVICE

Examiner: J. P. Misleh

REQUEST FOR REFUND
(IMPROPER CHARGE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNT)

MS 16
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I. REFUND REQUEST

This is a request for a refund with respect to the charge to Deposit Account 02-2448 shown on the statement for the month of August 2008 for the above-identified

☒ application ☐ patent

☒ A copy of the monthly statement in which the error referred to occurs, accompanies this request.

II. FEES CHARGED FOR WHICH REFUND REQUESTED

	<u>AMOUNT OF REFUND REQUESTED</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> filing fee	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> search fee	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> examination fee	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> surcharge for filing the basic filing on a date later than the filing date of the application (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(e))	_____
and/or	
<input type="checkbox"/> surcharge for filing the oath or declaration on a date later than the filing date of the application (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(e))	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> extension of term	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> first month	<u>\$120.00</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> second month	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> third month	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> fourth month	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> excess claims	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> issue fee	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> petition fee	_____

<input type="checkbox"/>	patent maintenance fee	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	first maintenance fee	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	second maintenance fee	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	third maintenance fee	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	patent maintenance fee surcharge	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	_____

TOTAL REFUND REQUESTED

\$120.00

III. EXPLANATION OF WHY CONTESTED CHARGE IS IN ERROR

A fee of \$120.00 was erroneously charged to our deposit account on August 4, 2008 for the first- month extension of time. We received a Restriction Requirement with a mailing date of May 28, 2008. According to the Requirement, the statutory period for response was set to expire 3 months or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of the communication. We prepared and filed the Restriction Requirement by the due date of August 28, 2008, as set forth by the PTO. A copy of the Office Action is attached hereto. Therefore, this was a PTO error and the first month extension fee in the amount of \$120.00 should be refunded.

IV. MANNER OF REFUND

Please make refund by crediting Account No. 02-2448.

We respectfully request that the attached copy of this letter be returned to us with an indication that the credit has been processed.

Dated: September 15, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Michael R. Cammarata

Registration No.: 39,491

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

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Suite 100 East

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Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant

Attachment(s)

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
Aug 2008 Deposit Account Reconciliation

Date	Reference No.	Docket Number	Fee Code	BSKB Code	Fee
4-Aug	10649824	2091-0288P	1251	DX	\$120.00



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/649,824	08/28/2003	Yukita Gotohda	2091-0288P	9008
2292 7590 05/28/2008 BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			EXAMINER MISLEH, JUSTIN P	
			ART UNIT 2622	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 05/28/2008	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/649,824	Applicant(s) GOTOHDA ET AL.	
	Examiner JUSTIN P. MISLEH	Art Unit 2622	

**– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 57, 59, 61, and 62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21 - 33 and 43 - 56 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 57, 59, 61, and 62 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Note to Applicant: The Examiner for the present Application has changed. Upon further consideration, the current Examiner believes the Species requirement (mailed July 27, 2007) is incomplete. The current Examiner believes the following Species requirement more accurately represents the disclosed and currently claimed (as filed March 4, 2008) patentably distinct species.

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species

Species I figures 1 – 11

Species II figures 12 – 19

Species III figures 20 – 27

Species IV figures 28 – 30

Species V figure 31
2. The species are independent or distinct because claims to the different species recite the mutually exclusive characteristics of such species. In addition, these species are not obvious variants of each other based on the current record.
3. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, NONE of the claims are generic.
4. There is an examination and search burden for these patentably distinct species due to their mutually exclusive characteristics. The species require a different field of search (e.g.,

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searching different classes/subclasses or electronic resources, or employing different search queries); and/or the prior art applicable to one species would not likely be applicable to another species; and/or the species are likely to raise different non-prior art issues under 35 U.S.C. 101 and/or 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

5. **Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species to be examined** even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) **and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected species**, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

6. The election of the species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the election of species requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR 1.144. If claims are added after the election, Applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable on the elected species.

7. Should Applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, Applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the species unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other species.

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8. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Justin P Misleh whose telephone number is 571.272.7313. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on 571.272.7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**/Justin P. Misleh/
Examiner, Art Unit 2622
May 24, 2008**